

Serial No. 10/568,231

Second Amendment AF Dated: February 24, 2009

Reply to Office Action Mailed: October 28, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 103020.60606US

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner, Mr. Ho, for his courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during a telephone interview conducted February 24, 2009. The matters discussed are set forth below.

Applicants are in receipt of an Advisory Action mailed February 13, 2009 indicating that the amendment filed January 28, 2009 has not been entered, because the deletion of the words "of an electric motor" following "said rotor" raises a new issue that would require further consideration or search. During the telephone interview, Counsel and the Examiner discussed this matter, and it was agreed that Applicants would resubmit the previously unentered amendment, with the words "of an electric motor" reinserted after the word "rotor" in line 9 of Claim 22. In addition, Applicants have also made the other three changes suggested by the Examiner on the continuation page attached to the Advisory Action. Accordingly, as discussed with the Examiner, the foregoing amendment should be entitled to entry, placing this application in condition for allowance.

For the sake of completeness, Applicants set forth below in full the Remarks contained in the unentered amendment dated January 28, 2009.

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Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 22-40 (all claims of record), as set forth in item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action. In particular, the latter claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the formal grounds of objection and rejection, as set forth in items 5 and 7 of the Office Action. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that all claims of record in this application are now allowable.

Applicants acknowledge that the outstanding Office Action, dated October 28, 2008, has been made final. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments do not raise a new issue or require further search. Rather, they are responsive to the formal grounds of objection and rejection, and do not change the scope of the claims.

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification on page 1, the first paragraph, eliminating the reference to the introductory portion of Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

A new Abstract has also been provided, as required.

Claims 22, 36-38 and 40 have been objected to due to certain informalities identified in item 5 of the Office Action. In response to this ground of objection,

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Applicants have made those changes suggested by the Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 22-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on certain formal issues identified in item 7 on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. In response to this ground of rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner which addresses and is believed to resolve each of the cited formal issues. In particular, the amendments which have been made include the substance of the revisions suggested by the Examiner in a telephone conversation on October 21, 2008. In addition, Applicants have also clarified the antecedent basis for "said planetary gearing" at Claim 22, lines 12-13; "said auxiliary electrical power drive" in Claim 31 at lines 4-5; "said steering gear" in Claim 36, line 3; "said planetary gearing" in Claim 22, line 7; and "said planetary gear train" in Claim 39, line 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 22-40 are now clear and definite.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 103020.60606US).

Respectfully submitted,


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